

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 and 22-53 are now pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 21 is canceled; claims 1, 5, 6, 22, 27, 28, 32, 33, 37, 45 and 46 are amended; and claims 49-53 are added.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Fredman during the telephone interview held April 14, 2005, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

As discussed during the interview, claims 1 and 22 have each been amended to recite that the first cDNA strand is synthesized at a temperature from 55° to 75°C. Support for the recitation of 55°C can be found in the specification at, for example, Example 4 in column 12. The article by Singer-Sam et al. (hereinafter "Singer-Sam"), which was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 19, 2005, does not teach or suggest a method in which the first cDNA strand is synthesized at a temperature from 55° to 75°C.

Claims 1 and 22 have also be amended to correct minor antecedent basis issues. In particular, the phrase "to form cDNA single strands" has been added to the cDNA denaturation step. In addition, two recitations of cDNA strand(s) have been amended to recite cDNA single strand(s). Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to simplify step c. None of these amendments narrow the scope of claims 1 and 22.

Based on the amendments to claim 1, dependent claims 5 and 6 have also been amended to recite 55°C.

Claim 27 has been amended to recite that the RNA is human immunodeficiency virus RNA. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, column 8 and the paragraph bridging columns 9 and 10.

Claim 28 has been amended to depend from claim 26. This amendment does not narrow the scope of claim 28 because claim 28 previously depended from claim 27, which previously depended from claim 26.

Based on the amendments to claim 22, dependent claim 32 has also been amended to recite 55°C.

Claim 33 has been amended to recite "the first cDNA single strand." This amendment clarifies the antecedent basis and does not narrow the scope of claim 33.

Claim 37, which the Examiner indicated during the interview to be allowable over Singer-Sam, has merely been amended to correct minor antecedent basis issues. In particular, the phrase "to form cDNA single strands" has been added to the cDNA denaturation step. In addition, two recitations of cDNA strand(s) have been modified to recite cDNA single strand(s). None of these amendments narrow the scope of claim 37.

Claim 45 and 46 have been amended to recite "the first cDNA single strand" and "said second cDNA strand," respectively. These amendments clarify the antecedent basis and do not narrow the scope of claims 45 and 46.

New claims 49-53 have been added to further define the invention. Claim 50 is an independent claim. Claims 49 and 51-53 depend from claims 1, 37 or 50.

Claim 50 is directed to a method for the amplification of RNA. Claim 50 recites that the ratio of units of reverse transcriptase activity to units of DNA polymerase activity is 2 to 8. Support for this feature can be found in the specification at, for example, column 7, lines 1-13. As discussed during the interview, Singer-Sam does not teach or suggest a method in which the ratio of units of reverse transcriptase activity to units of DNA polymerase activity is 2 to 8. In contrast, Singer-Sam teaches a method in which the ratio of units of reverse transcriptase activity to units of DNA polymerase activity is 1:1. Singer-Sam, page 1256, first column, the paragraph entitled "The RT-PCR assay."

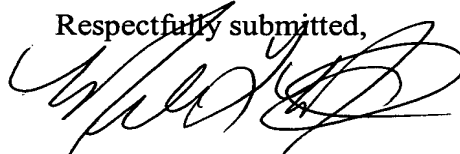
Claims 49, 52 and 53 depend from claims 37, 50 and 1, respectively. Each of these claims recites that the RNA is human immunodeficiency virus RNA. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at, for example, column 8 and the paragraph bridging columns 9 and 10.

Claim 51 depends from claim 50 and recites that the enzyme system comprises a first enzyme having reverse transcriptase activity and a second enzyme having DNA polymerase activity. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, column 6, lines 51-58, and column 7, lines 17-22.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 and 22-53 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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